



U.S. Air Force

DEP News



Changes In Latitude

Assignments open world of opportunities

You already know you're attending Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and if you have a guaranteed job, you know the base you will go to for technical training. But what's next?

With 80 major Air Force installations and many minor active facilities around the globe, a job in a location that you've always wanted to visit is possible.

Whether you're assigned to Florida's Gulf Coast, near Venice, Italy, or the Pacific, you're sure to have the experience of a lifetime.

Within the continental United States, the Air Force has 64 major installations. There are also two bases in Alaska and one in Hawaii.

In Europe, there are seven major bases and six in Asia and the Pacific.

Over the next few pages, you'll learn about what drives the assignment process and determines where your first duty station will be. You'll also learn more about the European and Pacific bases. You can learn about all of the Air Force's installations at www.af.mil or www.afcrossroads.com.

Selecting duty locations

Many factors play role in assigning Airmen to bases

The Air Force Personnel Center Airman Assignments Division at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, is responsible for ensuring commanders throughout the service have the number of people required for carrying out their missions.

At basic training, Airmen have the opportunity to list assignment preferences. Assignment NCOs and functional managers at AFPC balance these preferences with mission requirements.

Involvement by Airmen plays a large part in the center's ability to be successful. Members in the Delayed Entry Program should have a basic knowledge of how assignments work. They can discuss it with their recruiters or perhaps suggest it as a topic for a DEP commander's call.

There are a number of factors that influence the assignments process. They range from personal situations and desires and ex-

panded Air Force missions to an increasing operations tempo, the availability of funds and end strength.

All play a part in AFPC's ability to assign Airmen to the location they desire while satisfying Air Force mission needs.

Another driving factor involved in the assignment process includes the return of Air Force members from overseas assignments. After this is taken into consideration, Airmen are assigned to major commands that, in turn, align them to fill their top priorities.

Through it all, integrity, fairness and equity are critical. There are no dart boards, secret handshakes or smoke and mirrors.

While most assignments are computer generated to the tune of some 90,000 selections a year, an experienced team of professionals at AFPC strives to accomplish its goal. That goal is to make the assignment experience a positive one for Airmen while meeting the Air Force mission needs of having the right people in the right place at the right time.

Air Force Recruiting Service publishes DEP News as a monthly insert to *New Airman* magazine. Information is intended for people in the Air Force's Delayed Entry Program. Information in this publication is subject to change without notice. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise identified. Questions and comments should be directed to AFRS Public Affairs at (210) 565-4678 or DSN 665-4678, or e-mailed to afrshqpa@rs.af.mil.

European assignments offer cultural experience

Airmen lucky enough to spend their first Air Force assignment in Europe get the opportunity to experience different cultures and customs.

One of the best ways to experience a new country is to blend in with the local people, learn common phrases, study its history and try the local food.

You should also be aware of the local laws and customs that are

sometimes different than those in the United States.

Each base provides a newcomer's briefing to ensure service members are familiar with the local country, culture and laws.

If living in Europe sounds good, keep these locations in mind when it's time to list your assignment preferences.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe is the major command responsible for carrying out the Air Force mission in Europe. It accomplishes its mission with its 16 installations, five of which are main operating bases situated across Europe.

More than 42,000 active duty, reserve and civilian employees are assigned to USAFE. Equipment includes more than 220 fighter, attack, tanker and transport aircraft and a full complement of conventional weapons.

Major bases include Ramstein Air Base and Spangdahlem AB, Germany; Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England; Aviano AB, Italy; and Incirlik AB, Turkey.

U.S. Air Force photo



Find out
more at:

www.usafe.af.mil





A B-2 Spirit taxis into place at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, a forward-operating location for bombers

Unique discoveries await Airmen exploring Pacific

Bases stretch from Hawaiian Islands to Alaskan tundra

The Air Force offers the opportunity to live and work in diverse countries around the globe.

Some of the most diverse duty locations the Air Force offers are in the Pacific. These areas offer varied types of cultures, customs and a wide range of temperatures to suit the most discerning Airman.

For those who enjoy hunting, skiing and cold weather, the Air Force offers the opportunity for assignments to one of two bases in Alaska.

Airmen who are interested in

surfing, the Polynesian culture and tropical weather can unwind while relaxing at Air Force bases in Hawaii or Guam.

Air Force bases in Korea and Japan offer cultural lessons for those interested in Asian customs and heritage.

So, whether it's ice fishing in Alaska, the hula on Oahu or learning a martial art in Japan, there are many options as a new Airman stationed in the Pacific.



BMT holds unlikely lesson for new Airman

by **Airman Frank Snider**
Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

The 6-inch shirt. The hospital corners on the beds. Folding your underwear.

Airmen look back at Basic Military Training and remember what I'm talking about.

Many miss that those shirts teach a lesson; one just has to realize it.

My name used to be just Frank Snider. Now I am Airman Snider. I became part of the Air Force in February 2004.

Several months ago, I was out in front of my training instructor, often as a water monitor, so he knew my name well.

Fortunately for me, the days moved quickly and time flew by.

I graduated and moved on to Fort George G. Meade, Md., for technical training.

School lasted three months. I was learning about the Air Force, journalism and what my role would be in the years to come.



Airman Snider

Then came another graduation and another base.

At Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., I began reflecting on the months that led to my first assignment. Reflecting back to that 6-inch shirt.

In basic, we all thought, "This is the stupidest thing in the world, why are we doing this?"

However, when I arrived here, I began to understand some of the reasons instructors were so tough on that perfectly folded shirt. They were preparing us to work with precision.

Even though I don't work directly with aircraft, a bad flash or aperture adjustment or even a misplaced letter can mean much more work for me or cause embarrassment and cost my fighter wing credibility.

Another example comes from a friend of mine who maintains survival equipment, mainly parachutes.

He told me if he was sewing together a parachute and used the wrong type of thread or missed a stitch, a pilot could die.

It just goes to show that some of the strangest things that people are told to do can have a hidden lesson, just like those 6-inch shirts.

'A hero never dies'

by **Patience Norris**
DEP, Blairsden, Calif.

Everything has a phase in existence that it grows out of. Children become teenagers, black wears to gray, hot soup turns cold, and adults turn into the elderly. But a hero never dies.

It's been said that if you do one good deed for someone else in life, your job is done. But to what degree do you transform from human to hero? I asked myself that question many times throughout my life, but quit asking at 16.

I couldn't find the heroism that would arise from being a real estate agent, which was my aspiration at the time. Fortunately, I was graced with the presence of a true-life hero and found the answer to that nagging question I had so recently relinquished.

The warm handshake of

Tech. Sgt. Rick Parsons lured me in. The merriment in his eyes and voice when he explained the ample (opportunities) for an Airman convinced me to sign up.

At that instant I knew what I was going to do to become a hero. I was joining the Air Force and no Army, Marine or Navy recruiter was going to change my mind.

The aptitude, dedication, endurance and sheer determination it takes to be an Airman excited me. But what really got me was the chance I had just received to help keep America safe.

I now get to join a family of heroes and assist my fellow Airmen in protecting the land we hold sacred. I have discovered a group of selfless people who love this country as much as I do. I couldn't ask for anything more.

Every ambition I've set in life can be accomplished as an Airman. I can help the future children of America so they, too, have the same rights, privileges and simple pleasures I enjoyed as a child.

I am very grateful for that warm handshake and the U.S. Air Force. I am fulfilling my American dream.

U.S. Air Force's *Future Force*

Ryan Armstrong

Date of birth: Feb. 23, 1987

Recruiter: Tech. Sgt. Timothy Anton

Hometown: Edgewood, Md.

Name of high school and mascot: Harford Technical High School Cobras

Future Air Force job: I'm qualifying for pararescue.

Why the Air Force? The Air Force is a very prestigious branch and offers challenging and demanding career opportunities.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Still in the Air Force and part of U.S. special operations

Hobbies: Paintball, backpacking, archery and bow hunting

Favorite magazine: Bow Hunter

Last book read: "That Others May Live"

What movie have you rented or seen more than five times? "The Fast and the Furious"

Favorite TV program: "OLN"

Favorite Web site: www.specialoperations.com

Favorite video game: SOCOM

Vacation choice: St. Thomas

Hottest car: The TR6 street bike

Favorite sports team: Baltimore Ravens

Personal motto: "Deal with it."

If you could hang out with one person for an entire day, who would it be and why? It would probably be George Bush simply because I would like to see what thoughts and planning go into decisions he makes daily on our national security and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

by Tech. Sgt. Timothy Anton



AF snuffs out tobacco use

The Air Force has added a little more incentive for DEPers who plan to stop smoking before leaving for basic training.

Non-prior service Airmen are no longer allowed to use and possess tobacco during technical training while on base or in uniform.

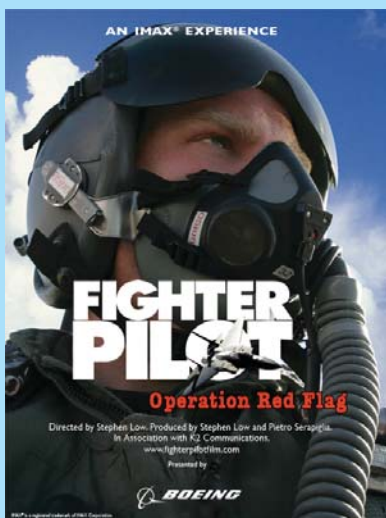
The new policy allows Airmen to use tobacco only if they are off base and out of uniform. Prior to the policy change, students could use tobacco products on base after duty hours, provided they were out of uniform and had reached at least Phase III of the enlisted phase program.

Even though Airmen must quit

using tobacco before entering basic military training, studies have found 82 percent of those who quit returned to tobacco use after graduation. Another 7 percent of Airmen entering technical training pick up the habit within their first year on active duty, said Col. Russell Eggert, Air Education and Training Command Health Promotion Branch chief.

“More people are leaving technical training as tobacco users than those who enter (basic training),” he said. “It’s very difficult once people are addicted to nicotine to get them to quit. We want to prevent them from ever starting.”

IMAX film a first for Air Force



The IMAX film “Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag” offers a glimpse into Air Force training.

The movie is the first large format film to showcase the U.S. Air Force. It follows an F-15 Eagle pilot during a two-week Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

The exercise pits “friendly” forces against “hostile” forces in mock combat situations.

Show locations and information are available online at www.fighterpilotfilm.com.